

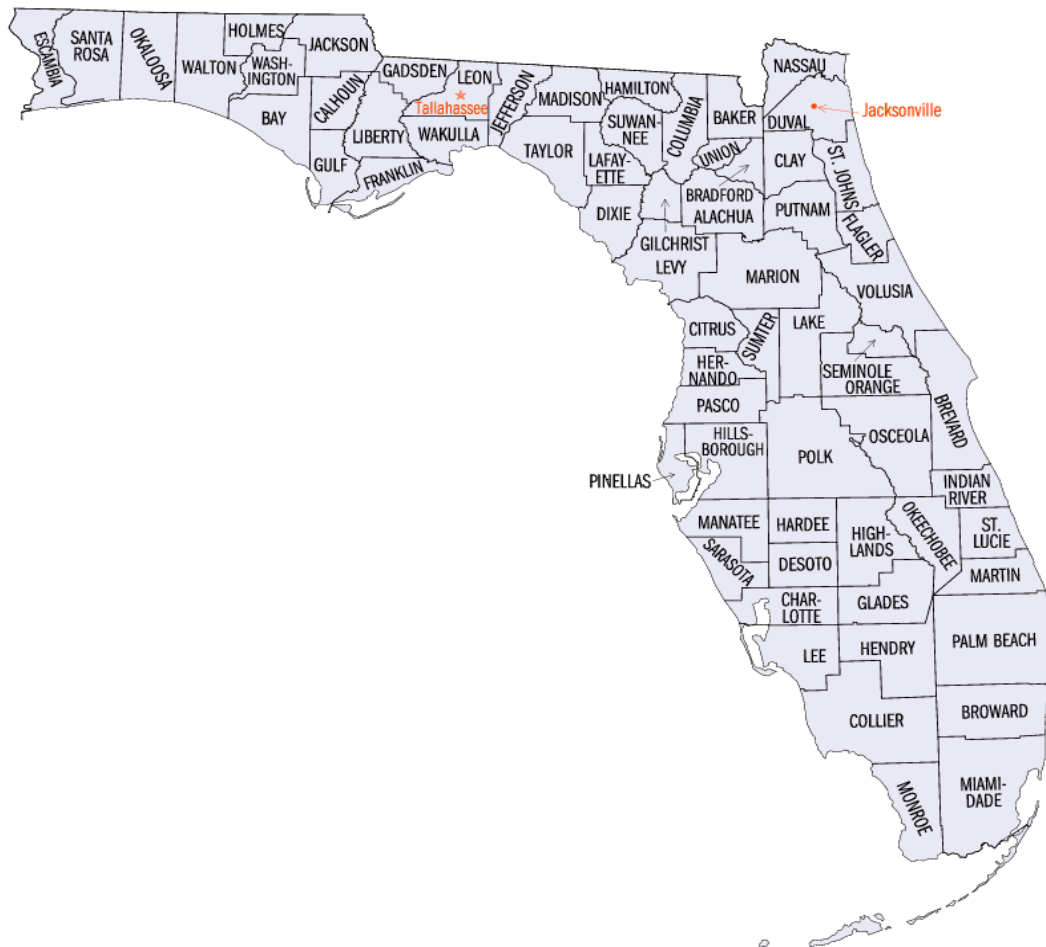
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Miami, Florida

Profile of Drug Indicators

February 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Miami, Florida

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population (2000 Census): 362,470
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 11.8% white; 19.9% black/African American; 0.1% American Indian/Alaska Native; 0.6% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander; 0.1 % some other race; 1.7% two or more races; 65.8% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)
- Miami is located in Dade County.

Politics

- Mayor: Manuel Diaz²
- City Manager: Joe Arriola³
- City Commissioners (Districts 1-5, respectively): Angel Gonzalez; Johnny Winton; Joe Sanchez; Tomas Regalado; Arthur Teele, Jr.⁴
- Miami Police Chief: John Timoney⁵
- Miami-Dade Police Department Director: Carlos Alvarez⁶

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁷
Designated in 1990, the South Florida HIDTA is composed of Monroe, Dade, and Broward Counties. This HIDTA site covers over 500 miles of coastline and is the crossroads for nearly all air and sea traffic from South America and the Caribbean entering the U.S. There are three international seaports, four international airports, and ten private airports found within this region.
- Miami Coalition for a Safe and Drug-Free Community⁸
Founded in 1988, the Miami Coalition is a broadly based community organization committed to reducing the problems of drug abuse, addiction, and related social issues.

Federal Funding

- Drug Free Communities Support Program⁹
No Miami grantees have ever received funding through the Drug-Free Communities Support Program.
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹⁰
There are two sites in Miami that have received Federal funding and have been officially recognized as Weed and Seed sites.
- FY 2001 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Discretionary Funds received in Miami:¹¹
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
 - \$444,553 awarded to Union Positiva, Inc. Project Period: 09/30/2001 - 09/29/2004

- \$297,851 awarded to Switchboard of Miami, Inc. Project Period 09/30/2001 - 09/29/2004
- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment
 - \$475,000 to Florida Department of Children and Families. Project Period: 09/30/1999 - 09/29/2002
 - \$544,686 to the Village South, Inc. Project Period: 07/29/2000 - 09/29/2002
 - \$402,334 to the Village South, Inc. Project Period: 09/30/2000 - 09/29/2003
 - \$355,177 to the Village South, Inc. Project Period: 09/30/2000 - 09/29/2003
 - \$503,513 to the Village South, Inc. Project Period: 09/30/2000 - 09/29/2003
 - \$381,349 to Camillus House, Inc. Project Period: 09/30/2000 - 09/29/2003
 - \$422,222 to University of Miami. Project Period: 09/30/1999 - 09/29/2002
 - \$498,904 to the Village South, Inc. Project Period: 09/30/2001 - 09/29/2006
- Miami did not receive any funding through the FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant Program.¹²
- Miami did not receive any funding through the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Federally-Assisted Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grant program.¹³
- Miami did not receive any methamphetamine funding in 2002 from the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.¹⁴
- FY 2001 Office of Justice Programs and Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Grants received in Miami:¹⁵
 - Discretionary - \$5,676,660
 - Formula - \$3,730,475

Crime & Drug-Related Crime

- From January 1 to June 30, 2002, the Miami Police Department reported 3,609 drug arrests.¹⁶
- During full year 2001, the Miami Police Department reported 7,196 drug arrests.¹⁷

Number of Arrests, Select Offenses, Miami, 2001-June 30, 2002

Offense	Full Year 2001	Jan.-June 30, 2002
Murder	38	22
Forcible sex	120	31
Robbery	925	482
Aggravated assault	2,062	1,100
Burglary	1,306	631
Larceny	3,869	1,709
Motor vehicle theft	492	229
Drug arrests	7,196	3,609
DUI	770	406
Liquor law violations	14,707	5,406
Total arrests	364,001	22,413

- Preliminary data for January to September 2000 indicate that 63% of adult male arrestees in Miami tested positive for drugs at arrest.¹⁸

Percent Positive for Drugs, Adult Male Arrestees, Miami, Jan.-Sept. 2000

Drug Type	Percent Positive
Cocaine	43%
Opiates	4
Marijuana	38
Methamphetamine	0
PCP	0
Any Drug	63
Multiple Drugs	22

- Preliminary 2000 data also indicate that 15.4% of the adult male arrestees in Miami who were interviewed reported using powder cocaine in the seven days prior to being arrested. 14% reported crack use in the past seven days.¹⁹

Drugs

- Cocaine
Powder cocaine purity has declined in Miami due to the use of adulterants such as caffeine and “any white powder.” Some MDMA users in Miami begin their evening by doing a line of cocaine. A rock of crack cocaine costs \$10-\$20 and a gram of powder cocaine costs \$20.²⁰ A kilogram of cocaine in southern Florida costs approximately \$18,000-\$22,000 and is 83% pure.²¹
- Heroin
A younger cohort of heroin users has been reported in Miami.²² Some young heroin users are more likely to snort the drug because of AIDS concerns. Heroin is sometimes used to “parachute down” after using MDMA. High purity snortable South American (Colombian) white heroin is the most common type available in Miami. A gram of South American heroin costs approximately \$120-\$200 in the city.²³ One ounce of heroin sells for \$2,100 in Miami.²⁴ Kilogram prices for heroin found in South Florida have remained stable at around \$60,000-\$65,000, with an average purity of 70%.²⁵
- Marijuana
Local commercial, sinsemilla, and hydroponic marijuana are all widely available in Miami. Some young marijuana users report lacing marijuana cigarettes with heroin. One ounce of hydroponically grown marijuana costs \$150-\$200.²⁶ Marijuana pound prices have increased from \$4,000 to \$5,000. Some dealers lace marijuana with cocaine to get customers to believe they have been sold potent marijuana. They feel this will result in an increase in repeat customers. Marijuana has been associated with high-risk sexual behavior in Miami.²⁷
- Club Drugs
The practice of “rolling,” the use of heroin to counteract the stimulant effect of MDMA, has been reported in Miami.²⁸ One MDMA pill costs between \$11 and \$18.²⁹ GHB is a commonly abused substance in South Florida.³⁰ One GHB pill costs approximately \$10 in Miami.³¹
- Other Drugs
Both legitimate and illegal uses of prescription drugs have increased since September 11, 2001.³² OxyContin tablets sell on the streets of South Florida for between \$0.25

and \$1.00 per milligram.³³ Viagra is used with MDMA in a combination known as “sextasy.” Miami high school students are increasingly abusing alprazolam.³⁴

Juveniles

- From January to June 2002, the Miami Police Department reported 1,970 juvenile arrests.³⁵
- A 2001 survey of Miami high school students indicated that 31.9% of them had tried marijuana at least once in their lifetimes.³⁶

Percent of High School Students Using Selected Drugs, Miami, 2001

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	28.3%	35.7%	31.9%
Current marijuana use	15.3	18.9	17.0
Lifetime cocaine use	7.3	8.9	8.1
Current cocaine use	2.0	6.0	4.0
Lifetime inhalant use	6.8	8.7	7.7
Current inhalant use	2.0	3.3	2.6
Lifetime heroin use	1.7	3.9	2.8
Lifetime methamphetamine use	3.8	5.9	4.8
Lifetime illegal steroid use	2.5	3.9	3.2
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	0.7	2.5	1.6
Tried marijuana before age 13	4.9	10.5	7.7

- Over thirty-eight percent of Miami 12th graders reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetime.³⁷

Percent of High School Students Using Selected Drugs, by Grade, Miami, 2001

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	27.7%	30.6%	32.8%	38.7%
Past month marijuana use	15.6	15.9	14.6	22.8
Lifetime cocaine use	8.4	6.1	8.9	9.3
Past month cocaine use	4.9	2.1	4.3	4.5
Lifetime inhalant use	8.6	6.1	7.1	9.3
Past month inhalant use	2.9	1.9	3.0	2.7
Lifetime heroin use	2.7	1.2	3.3	3.8
Lifetime methamphetamine use	5.4	2.1	4.0	7.7
Lifetime steroid use	3.5	1.8	3.3	3.3
Lifetime injection of illegal drug	1.3	1.1	2.1	1.7

Enforcement

- South Florida HIDTA Initiatives include the following:³⁸
 - Miami HIDTA Task Force – This initiative serves as an umbrella for six Federally-coordinated enforcement efforts.

- Anti-Narcotics Smuggling Task Force – This initiative addresses the growing problem of cocaine and heroin through Miami’s ports and the corruption of transportation industry employees, particularly at Miami International Airport.
 - Street Terror Offender Program – This task force is devoted to identifying South Florida’s most violent and prolific drug-involved organizations and individuals.
- Implemented on February 15, 2001, Operation Riverwalk is a law enforcement effort made up of officers from Federal, State, and local agencies. The purpose of Operation Riverwalk is to enforce drug laws and limit drug trafficking along the Miami River.³⁹
- As of October 31, 2001, there were 1,409 full time law enforcement employees in Miami.⁴⁰

Trafficking and Seizures

- The Miami International Airport is the busiest airport in the United States for international cargo and is used extensively as an entry point for narcotics entering the U.S. in bulk shipments.⁴¹
- South Florida is a major international transportation nexus, accounting for 40% of the nation's trade with Central America, 35% of the trade with the Caribbean and 17% of the trade with South America.⁴²
- Miami’s *Pulse Check* law enforcement source suggests that increased airport security since September 11, 2001, has led to a reduction in drug trafficking activities that utilize airports. Some drug traffic has shifted from air to sea using cruise ships.⁴³
- The Internet has recently become a tool for powder cocaine sales in Miami.⁴⁴
- Miami is now considered a "high-demand" destination for designer drugs and is a transshipment point between the suppliers in Europe and organizations in South America.⁴⁵
- Seven small methamphetamine labs have recently been seized in the Miami area.⁴⁶
- During 2001, 2,503 marijuana plants were eradicated in Dade County.⁴⁷
- On July 30, 2002, U.S. Customs Service Inspectors seized 3,618 pounds of cocaine valued at \$32 million. The cocaine was seized on the Miami River.⁴⁸
- On March 19, 2002, Customs officers seized 58,925 tablets of ecstasy at the Miami International Airport. The pills were valued at \$1.8 million.⁴⁹
- On March 13, 2002, Customs officers seized 298 pounds of cocaine worth more than \$2 million wholesale. The cocaine originated in Colombia and was seized at the Port of Miami.⁵⁰
- During FY 2002, the U.S. Customs Service seized the following drug amounts in South Florida: 34,891 pounds of marijuana; 32,150 pounds of cocaine; and 1,272 pounds of heroin.⁵¹
- In October 2002, the DEA announced the arrest of eight defendants who were involved in an international ketamine distribution ring operating in South Florida for the past year. 200 vials of ketamine were seized in addition to numerous weapons and false identification cards.⁵²

Courts

- Drug Courts⁵³
- As of January 2003, there were two drug courts in Miami that have been operating for over two years and one juvenile drug court that was recently implemented in Miami.

- During FY 2001, approximately 52% of the Federally sentenced offenders in southern Florida had been charged with a drug offense. The majority of the drug offenses (51.5%) involved powder cocaine.⁵⁴

Federally-Sentenced Drug Offenders, Southern Florida, FY 2001

Drug Type	Number	% of Drug Offenses
Powder cocaine	602	51.5
Heroin	247	21.1
Crack cocaine	135	11.5
Marijuana	89	7.6
Methamphetamine	10	0.9
Other	87	7.4

- Of the offenders in South Florida sentenced for committing a Federal drug trafficking offense, 98.5% received a prison sentence. The one offender sentenced for committing a simple possession offense received a prison sentence.⁵⁵

Corrections

- More than 8,681 (12%) of the inmates in Florida prisons on June 30, 2002 were sentenced in Dade County.⁵⁶

Consequences of Use

- During 2001, there were 15,919 drug mentions reported to the Drug Abuse Warning Network by emergency departments (ED) in Miami. Preliminary data for 2002 show that there were 8,635 drug mentions in Miami from January to June 2002.⁵⁷

Number of ED Drug Mentions, Selected Drugs, Miami 1998-June 2002

Drug Type	Full Year 1998	Full Year 1999	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Jan-June 2002
Alcohol-in- combin.	2,132	2,645	3,168	3,679	2,009
Cocaine	3,553	4,018	4,383	4,641	2,492
Heroin	767	917	1,453	1,666	932
Marijuana	1,113	1,283	1,768	1,932	1,195
Amphetamines	64	53	83	64	40
Methamphetamine	16	9	15	27	5
MDMA	12	59	105	184	78
Ketamine	1	10	2	4	0
LSD	54	50	55	55	22
PCP	14	9	15	9	2
Misc. hallucinogens	6	6	8	5	2
Rohypnol	12	7	10	6	2
GHB	10	29	46	33	16
Inhalants	10	23	15	4	7
Total drug episodes	6,426	7,128	8,560	8,886	4,720
Total drug mentions	10,755	12,158	14,883	15,919	8,635

- From January to June 2002, there were 59 deaths reported by Miami medical examiners in which cocaine was found in the bodies.⁵⁸
- During full year 2001 cocaine was involved in 149 of the deaths reported in Miami.⁵⁹

Number of Deaths with Drugs Present, Miami, 2000-June 2002

Drug Involved	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Jan.-June 2002
Cocaine	144	149	59
Heroin	72	32	14
Hydrocodone*	54	13	9
Oxycodone*	--	24	7
Methadone	6	2	5

* In 2000, Hydrocodone and Oxycodone were combined

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